

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action the Examiner has rejected claims 22-27 as unpatentable over BAILLIE et al in view of VAKIL. The Examiner has stated that it would have been obvious to provide a sleeve encompassing a light tube as taught by BAILLIE et al which employs friction fit end pieces such as taught by VAKIL.

Applicant has amended Claim 22 so that now recited over the combination of BAILLIE et al. and VAKIL. More particularly, Claim 22 has been amended to recite that the exterior sleeve is equidistantly spaced from the fluorescent globe and has an end piece with a rim that friction fits with the end of the sleeve. As amended, Applicant believes that the claim now recites over the combination of BAILLIE et al. and VAKIL, insofar as there is no teaching in either reference of a sleeve which is equidistantly spaced from and completely encompassing the fluorescent globe. Further, neither cited reference teaches an end piece that has a rim friction fitting with an end of the sleeve. As a result, Applicant believes that the claims as amended now recite over and are patentable in view of the combination of BAILLIE et al. and VAKIL.

Further, the teaching of VAKIL is completely unrelated to the problem being addressed by the subject invention and, as such, there would therefore be no motivation for one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of the BAILLIE et al. and VAKIL references. VAKIL teaches a starter assembly coupled to a tube assembly which is in a coupling system including a support plug, which protrudes from the starter assembly and is inserted into a receptacle provided in the tube assembly. Such technology is quite clearly unrelated to the subject invention, which concerns itself with the attachment of a phosphorescent light cover to a fluorescent tube. VAKIL teaches an adapter module which enables the phosphorescent globes having a pin connection means to be mounted in traditional screw or bayonet type sockets. Further, Applicant notes that there is no mention of a friction fit combination of parts in VAKIL. The support cap is secured to the cover 302 by a snap fit (column 5, lines 65-67), and the plug 408 is simply stated to "mate" with the receptacle 206 (column 5, lines 16-17).

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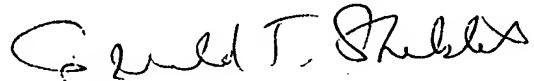
Thus there is no motivation to combine the teachings of BAILLIE et al. and VAKIL and, further, even if BAILLIE et al. and VAKIL were to be combined, they would not supply all of the elements of the subject invention as now claimed.

Applicant hereby requests reconsideration and reexamination thereof.

With the above amendments and remarks, this application is considered ready for allowance and applicant earnestly solicits an early notice of same. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he/she is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below listed number.

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Respectfully submitted,



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